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seek to call forth and increase the charitable feelings of the people, but should not assume their duties of action without strong necessity."

The recent establishment of the American Association for the Promotion of Social Science, at the suggestion of the Board whose Report is before us, and the interest of its first meeting, indicate the existence of a general concern in our community regarding the questions relating to the improvement of society. By the efforts of this and kindred associations, we may once more hope to set our country at the head in the work of social reform and progress. With our special advantages we have special duties. It is not satisfactory to learn, as we do from this Report, that "our charitable and correctional institutions are not superior to those of some other countries, and in several respects they are far inferior."

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12. — *The History of the first Discovery and Settlement of Virginia.*

By WILLIAM STITH, A. M. New York: Reprinted for Joseph Sabin. 1865. 8vo.

THE accurate and faithful narrative of the worthy President of the College of William and Mary, first printed in Williamsburg in 1747, has long been esteemed a standard authority in the early history of Virginia. Although his style is inelegant and diffuse, and his minuteness of detail is sometimes unnecessarily extended, his scrupulous adherence to the facts as related by the authors whom he cites, and his unquestioned probity, have established the truthful character of his work.

Stith was indebted to the narratives of Captain John Smith and other early residents in the Colony for the incidents connected with its settlement; and while giving full credit to the author of the "Generall Historie," — "for I take him," says Stith, "to have been a very honest man and a lover of truth," — he does not fail to recognize the prejudices which seem to have influenced and distorted his account of the affairs of the Colony.

A copy of the Records of the Virginia Company for a period of five years (1619–1624) was made by direction of the Earl of Southampton, and purchased after his death by Colonel Byrd, which was used by the author in the preparation of his History. This copy is said to have come into the possession of Congress with the papers of Jefferson, and is supposed to be now in the law library at Washington. Among other documents which came to the hands of Stith were also many state papers, collected originally by Sir John Randolph.

From these and other authentic materials the author has constructed his history of the Colony, from the discovery of the continent to the dis-

solution of the Virginia Company in 1624, by James I. of England. Stith's estimate of this weak but selfish king is, to say the least, plainly expressed. "I have ever had," he writes, "from my first acquaintance with history, a most contemptible opinion of this monarch, which has, perhaps, been much heightened and increased by my long studying and conning over the materials of this History. For he appears, in his dealings with the Company, to have acted with such mean arts and fraud, and such little tricking, as highly misbecome Majesty." Entertaining these views, we may be assured that the author will generally be inclined, in his own language, "to *un-Solomonize* that silly monarch."

The narrative of Stith, while it records the events which occurred in Virginia during the early years of the Colony, contains also the history of the opposition to the Company in England, which, with the internal dissensions of the Council, contributed, no less than the hardships experienced by the colonists, to the failure of the enterprise.

An important and valuable part of the work is found in the Appendix of original documents, embracing the three Virginia charters, the first of April 10, 1606, to Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, and others; the second, to the Treasurer and Company for Virginia, or the London Company, bearing date May 23, 1609; and the third, to the same corporators, dated March 12, 1611-2; together with the charter from the Company, of July 24, 1621, establishing a Council of State and General Assembly in the Colony.

The present reprint appears to be, with the exception of a few literal errors of the press, a faithful copy of the original edition. A bibliographical notice by Mr. Sabin is prefixed, containing an account of the different forms of the impression of 1747, and of the variations in the London reprint of 1753. We have lately seen two copies bearing the imprint of William Parks, Williamsburg, 1747, but containing all the distinctive marks noted by Mr. Sabin as belonging to the London edition, including their regularity of pagination, the differences in the ornaments, signature-marks, and catch-words, and the variation in the paper on which signature X is printed, as compared with the rest of the volume. The omission of the line over the foot-note on page 308 also corresponds in these copies with the London impression, as does the *Italic J* on the first (not second) page of the Appendix. A third copy, wanting the title-page, but considered by a former proprietor as of the Williamsburg edition, corresponds in all these respects with these two. These facts would seem to indicate that some copies of the London edition were issued with the Williamsburg imprint, which will explain the differences noted by a correspondent in the "Historical Magazine" for June, 1858.

The execution of the work in this reprint is creditable both to the editor and printer, and we are confident that their labor will be appreciated alike by the bibliophile and the historical student.

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13. — *History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Death of Elizabeth*. By JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE, M. A., late Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. Vols. I. – VI. New York: Charles Scribner & Co. 1866.

ENOUGH of Mr. Froude's History has now been published to warrant us in forming a judgment of his qualities as an historian. It is true that the story of Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots, in some respects more dramatic and full of personal interest than any within the compass of the book, is not yet reached by the historian; but a careful reader of the volumes already published will not find it hard to foretell what Mr. Froude's treatment of the case is likely to be, with Mary as the bewitching type of the reaction that was to be fatal to her race, and Elizabeth as the unloving but conscientious step-mother under whose cold eyes the national life of England was to grow toward the manhood of the Commonwealth.

The period embraced by Mr. Froude's plan, including as it does the history of the Protestant Revolution in England, of the Catholic reaction under Mary, and of the compromise of extreme opinions under Elizabeth, is one of the most interesting and instructive in English annals. The reader in imagination carries on the story, and sees the inevitable oscillations of the pendulum of opinion from one extreme to another, till it seems to come to a standstill in that other compromise under William, which left England in politics without any fixed principle of action based on morals, and in religion with a form instead of faith. But the part already completed, treating as it mainly does of the process of reconstruction after a civil war of opinion, is full of pithy lessons for whoever reads aright. It shows the necessity of a definite firmness of policy, with moderation in action and wise concession in all non-essentials. It shows also the futility of all attempts to combine principles by their very nature deadly opposites. It teaches, in short, as history always does, that simple method for the solution of political problems whose application men always learn too late by the comment of their own errors.

As an historian Mr. Froude shows clearly the influence of the intellectual and moral training through which he has passed. Left apparently by the result of the politico-religious revival at Oxford without any